III. Remarks

The Applicant has provided an amended Abstract to address the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for purportedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,958,006 to Eggleston et al. ("Eggleston").

As recited in amended independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 23, the transmission server and the method of transmission, according to the present invention, process an e-mail attachment prior to transmission to a network client. The e-mail attachment includes content, and presentation data defining the presentation of the content. The e-mail attachment is converted into a less memory-intensive data format (prior to transmission to the client), by extracting the content from the e-mail attachment, and the extracted content is then transmitted to the network client without the presentation data. With this arrangement, the size of the transmission to the network client is reduced, thereby allowing the user of a bandwidth- or resource-limited network terminal to read the e-mail attachment. The recited method reduces the amount of extraneous information that must be sent to a network terminal so that attachments may be viewed.

Support for the amendments to independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 23 can be found at page 11, line 31 to page 12, line 34, and at page 16, line 14 to page 17, line 27.

Eggleston describes a system for allowing wireless clients to control the amount and type of data received from a remote server. As shown in Figure 2 of the patent, the system includes one or more wireless clients, a communication server, and one or more host servers in communication with the communication server. The communication server includes a profile database of filter parameters for each client (such as Message Priority, Date Sent, Message Size, Author and Subject – see Figure 5). The profile database also includes granularity filters which specify whether the message should be truncated after "X" bytes, and whether an attachment should be removed from an e-mail message. Upon receipt of a data request from a wireless client, the communication server queries the host computer for the requested data. Using the client's profile data, the requested data is

12

"pre-stage" filtered (either by the host computer or the communication server) before the data is transmitted to the wireless client.

Independent claim 1 of the subject application, as amended, relates to an electronic data transmission server. The transmission server comprises a data receiver, a data processing system, and a data transmitter. The data receiver is used to receive a request for transmission of an e-mail attachment to a network terminal over communications network. The e-mail attachment includes content, and data defining the presentation of the content.

The data processing system converts the e-mail attachment into a less memory-intensive data format, by extracting the content from the e-mail attachment. The data transmitter is used to transmit the extracted content to the network terminal over a communications network without the presentation data.

The data transmission server, instead of merely transmitting the e-mail attachment to the requesting network terminal, extracts the content from the e-mail attachment, and then transmits the content to the requesting network terminal without the presentation data. With this arrangement, the size of the transmission to the network terminal is reduced, thereby allowing the user of a bandwidth- or resource-limited network terminal to read the e-mail attachment.

Eggleston's does not disclose a data transmission server which is configured to reduce bandwidth requirements by extracting content from an e-mail attachment, and then transmitting the extracted content without the attachment's presentation data. Rather, Eggleston reduces bandwidth requirements by allowing the recipient to specify (1) a maximum message size; (2) rather the message should be truncated after "X" bytes, and (3) whether an attachment should be removed from an e-mail message. Eggleston does not teach or suggest reducing bandwidth requirements by separating the content of a document from its presentation data, and then forwarding the extracted content to the recipient.

Further, Eggleston only provides the user with the option of receiving the e-mail attachment in its original form in its entirety, or not receiving the attachment at all, the message size and truncation size parameters would only apply to the body of an e-mail message, not the attachment. Eggleston does not teach or suggest applying any pre-stage filtering to the e-mail attachment itself. Consequently, Eggleston does not teach or suggest the solution recited in independent claim 1 of the subject patent application.

Independent claim 10 recites a method of electronic data transmission which involves the steps of:

(1)　　receiving a request for transmission of an e-mail attachment over a communications network to a network terminal, the e-mail attachment including content and data defining the presentation of the content;

(2)　　converting the e-mail attachment into a less memory-intensive data format, the converting step comprising extracting the content from the e-mail attachment without the presentation data; and

(3)　　transmitting the extracted content to the network terminal over the communications network without the presentation data.

Eggleston does not disclose step (2) recited above, of converting an e-mail attachment into a less memory-intensive data format by extracting the content of the e-mail attachment from the e-mail attachment without the presentation data. Clients are provided with granularity filters to effect the pre-stage filtering of e-mail messages. The disclosed granularity filters are "file attachment", "truncation", and "header information". The "file attachment" granularity filter provides the mobile client with one of two options: (1) it allows the entire e-mail attachment to be transmitted to the client, or (2) it prevents the e-mail attachment from being transmitted to the client. The "truncation" granularity filter only transmits the first X bytes of the e-mail message integrum. The "header information" granularity filter only extracts header information from the e-mail message. None of

14

the disclosed granularity filters allow the content of an e-mail attachment to be extracted from the e-mail attachment without the presentation data of the attachment.

Further, neither the "truncation" or "header information" granularity filters process e-mail attachments at all. While the patentee does not explicitly state the "truncation" or "header information" granularity filters do not process e-mail attachments, by including "file attachment" as an available granularity filter (when discussing the "truncation" and "header information" granularity filters at column 8, line 31 through column 9, line 2), the patentee demonstrates that the "truncation" and "header information" granularity filters only process e-mail message bodies, not e-mail attachments. To conclude otherwise, would render the "file attachment" filter redundant: if it was the patentee's intention for the "truncation" filter to process e-mail attachments, the patentee could have eliminated the "file attachment" filter, and obtained the same effect as "file attachment" filter, simply by setting the truncation limit of the "truncation" filter (via the e-mail attachment) to 0 or a value equal to the size of the attachment. The patentee included the "file attachment" filter since the patentee required a mechanism for removing e-mail attachments from their respective e-mail messages, and the "truncation" and "header information" granularity filters would only process e-mail message bodies. Accordingly, Eggleston does not disclose step (2) recited above of extracting the content of an e-mail attachment from the e-mail attachment without the presentation data.

Eggleston also does not disclose step (3) recited above, of transmitting the content extracted from an e-mail attachment to a network terminal without the e-mail attachment presentation data. Rather, Eggleston teaches that once the granularity filters are applied to the e-mail messages, summary information is captured for all rejected data. Eggleston discloses that the summary information includes the message serial number and header information such as date, author, subject, size, priority and attachment indicator. As will be apparent, Eggleston does not teach the content can be extracted from the e-mail attachment. Although the subject field of an e-mail message may contain summary information pertaining to the e-mail message as a whole, the subject field is a component of the e-mail message header and not the e-mail attachment. Consequently, Eggleston

does not teach the step of transmitting to a network terminal content extracted from an e-mail attachment.

To summarize the foregoing, when Eggleston is read in its entirety, it does not teach or suggest steps 2 or 3 recited above.

Independent claim 19, as amended, is directed to an electronic data transmission server for directing an e-mail attachment to a network resource. The e-mail attachment includes content and data defining the presentation of content. The data transmission server comprises a data processing system that extracts the content from the e-mail attachment without the presentation data. The data transmitter transmits the extracted content to the network terminal, without the presentation data. The data processor is configured to initiate transmission of the at least attachment content to the network resource in accordance with the network resource transmission request and an access level defined for the network resource.

As discussed above, Eggleston does not teach a data transmission server configured to extract the content from an e-mail attachment and to transmit the extracted content to the network terminal, without the presentation data.

Independent claim 23, as amended, recites a method of directing an e-mail attachment to a network resource. The e-mail attachment includes content and data defining the presentation of the content. The method involves the steps of:

(1) extracting the attachment content from the e-mail attachment without the presentation data, and transmitting to a network terminal over a communications network the extracted content without the presentation data;

(2) receiving from the network terminal a request for transmission of at least the attachment content to the network resource; and

16

(3) initiating transmission of the at least content to the network resource in accordance with an access level defined for the network resource.

As discussed above, Eggleston does not teach a method that involves the extraction of content from an e-mail attachment and transmission of the extracted content to the recipient without the presentation data.

In light of the above remarks and the amendments submitted herewith, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 23 are novel over the cited reference. As the remaining claims are dependent on, and narrower than, independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 23 the Applicant submits that these claims are similarly novel over the cited reference.

It is believed that the above remarks and amendments submitted herein have placed this present application in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is requested. If the Examiner has further concerns, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at (416) 862-4318. All correspondence should continue to be directed to listed address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 53,902

Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 4900, Commerce Court West
Toronto, Ontario
M5L 1J3

TOR_LAW\ 6011867\1